

As troubling as the motivations behind this vote are, more troubling still is the majority's willingness to put the full faith and credit of the United States at risk to gain leverage over economic policy. Republicans should not be holding the economy hostage to advance their ideological agenda, especially when the economic recovery is still fragile.

Earlier this year, I joined with my colleagues in asking House Republicans to support a clean debt limit increase, but today it's clear they will not. In short, the majority is playing with fire. Remember this: default would set off a catastrophic chain of economic consequences, putting not just the economic recovery at risk, but risking a new, deeper recession. It would affect every single American family, every single worker and every single retiree. There is no reason to manufacture a crisis, but we have seen this play before from the majority, who manufactured a crisis over funding the government in the 2011 fiscal year: a crisis that ended up costing taxpayers more money and realizing none of the promised savings this year.

The majority can do better than partisan posturing, and it must. There are many members—on both sides of the aisle—who I suspect share this conviction. I have long advocated a comprehensive approach to deficit reduction. I believe any serious approach puts all the options—revenue, as well as domestic, defense and entitlement spending, carefully targeted in all cases—on the table as we chart a course back to fiscal balance. But where we cut and of whom we ask additional sacrifice should be consistent with our priorities and values.

If we consider all the options, we can chart a course to fiscal balance, one that invests in the things that ensure our economic success: education, innovation, and infrastructure. If we consider all the options, we can safeguard our commitment to seniors instead of undermining it by turning Medicare into a voucher program. Congress must do better than a budget that ends Medicare as we know it to pay for tax cuts to oil companies and wealthy individuals, and at the same time sinks the country \$1.9 trillion further into debt. Not long ago, many responsible members of the majority party favored a comprehensive approach. As we move forward, I urge them not to wilt on the vine in the face of pressure from those on the far right.

Congress must come together and negotiate in good faith if we are going to do the two critical things required of us: to put the American people back to work in a fully recovered economy, and to chart a course back to fiscal balance. I will vote for this legislation today, because America must pay its bills. But this Republican move is far more symbolic than serious, harnessing only Congress' power as an instrument of partisan politics, and not its power as an instrument to answer the country's problems.

“ENDEAVOUR”—IN HONOR OF HER
FINAL MISSION THE ENDEAVOUR
STS-134

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 1, 2011

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and in gratitude of the brave men and

women of NASA, and the Shuttle program. On this, *Endeavour's* last and final mission, and to the crew of Kelly, Johnson, Fincke, Chamtloff, Feustel, Vittori, we say God Speed. Our prayers are with you and your families. I ask that this poem penned in honor of them by Albert Caswell be placed in the RECORD.

ENDEAVOUR

When . . . Whenever . . . Whenever, We
Endeavour!
And go forth! All out upon our most heroic
course * * * and reach for the stars!
To new heights, all in our hopes and dreams
. . . This Flight . . . This Force, that
only hearts can so ignite!
Burning bold and burning bright, all out
upon our most heroic ways!
To strive for such lofty goals, and dreams!
All out towards new worlds to explore, such
magnificence . . . such themes!
To soar to, where none before have gone!
As ever onward, we speed . . . to far off and
most distant shores . . .
‘As all in this, it so surely seems . . .
That this force, these golden dreams . . . but
can only come from, from within . . .
the bravest of all hearts, convene!
Only with such shining hopes and dreams,
will we reach this end!
As we Endeavour, to go forth to see what
must be seen!
Armed with but only our hearts of courage
full, as we so dare to dream, time and
time again!
As all ahead full, we proceed!
To take us out of earth's surly bonds, all out
upon our most historic course . . .
To new worlds, so far beyond . . . this force!
All in our search for the truth . . .
To Discovery and beyond, all in the pursuit
of knowledge . . . all in our hearts of
youth!
As we are gone! As to new world's we ex-
plore!
But, for Man and Womankind's very exist-
ence to so insure!
Above and beyond! To Reach For and
Achieve, all in what we believe!
As our hearts take flight, to plant these
seeds!
To meet Woman and Mankind's, needs!
While, all out there on the edge of death . . .
hurdling, through space . . . at speed!
As these bravest of all hearts so crest, and so
rapidly so beat . . . all in this their
race against time, we so see!
Right to the very edge of death, all in these
their most heroic quests!
All for our world to so bless! This need!
To find the answers that we must know! But,
to Endeavour there so!
While, all of their precious lives but lie in
their hands . . .
The men and women Omission control, who
now so stand!
Who so tirelessly work, all on their watch
. . . who plan . . .
As life and death, but hangs on a strand!
For you are worth your weight in gold, as
this we all so understand!
As you too have chose to Endeavour, as so
much is owed!
As through these journeys we continue to
learn, and grow!
All out upon our course! So that in the end,
Woman and Mankind may ascend!
To new heights and so go forth!
And so Endeavour, as you take your last and
final mission . . .
and final visions, and blast off to this final
ignition!
All in your most magnificent of quests, and
celestial visions . . .
A prayer, a wish . . . to all of you, but come
our blessings!
As you hurdle through space, on the very
edge of death!

For all of us to bless! God Speed, and safe
journey on that edge!

You most heroic champions of space, as said
. . .

The ones who so dare to dream, as now up to
new worlds you so speed!

And to all those who over the years, who too
have so Endeavored here . . .

With tears, as you rode upon her historic
wings . . .

As to your most courageous hearts, her
songs to you did sing!

As you so brought back to our world, many
a splendid thing!

All within the light of the knowledge, that
you so carried back with you all upon
her golden wings . . .

All because you all so chose, To Endeavour!
—Albert Caswell

CARIBBEAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE
MONTH RESOLUTION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 1, 2011

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a resolution recognizing the significance of National Caribbean-American Heritage month. This resolution acknowledges the important contributions Caribbean-Americans have made to our nation's history and culture.

Let me begin by thanking my esteemed colleagues Representative DONALD PAYNE, Chair of the Caribbean Caucus, Congresswomen DONNA CHRISTENSEN and FREDERICA WILSON, my esteemed friend Representative JOHN CONYERS, Congressman ED TOWNS, and many others who have joined me in introducing this resolution today, the first day of Caribbean-American Heritage Month.

I am also pleased that the President issued a Proclamation on May 31, 2011, declaring June 2011 to be Caribbean-American Heritage Month, as has been the practice since Congress unanimously passed House Concurrent Resolution 71 in February 2006. As a long-time supporter of the Caribbean and a frequent visitor to the region, I was very proud to see us celebrate this important commemorative month for the fifth straight year.

I would also like to acknowledge Dr. Claire Nelson and the Institute of Caribbean Studies as well as all the other Caribbean American organizations in Washington, my home state of California, and across the country that have worked and continue to work to make Caribbean-American Heritage Month a great success.

As the President said in his proclamation, “Immigrants from Caribbean countries have come to America for centuries. Some came through the bondage of slavery.

Others willfully left behind the world they knew in search of a better life. Regardless of the circumstances of their arrival, they had faith their descendants would have a chance to realize their greatest potential.”

Throughout the history of the United States, this nation has been fortunate to benefit from countless individuals of Caribbean descent who have contributed to American government, politics, business, arts, education, and culture—including one of my personal mentors, the Honorable Shirley Chisholm.

Shirley Chisholm was a woman of Ba-jan and Guyanese descent, who never forgot her

Caribbean roots. She was the first African American woman elected to Congress and the first woman to run for the Democratic presidential nomination.

My political involvement began as a volunteer for her historic presidential campaign in 1972. Through her mentorship, she strengthened my interest in issues important to the African Diaspora both here in the U.S. and abroad.

During Caribbean American Heritage Month, we recognize the important contributions of people like Shirley Chisholm, as well as Alexander Hamilton, Hazel Scott, Sidney Poitier, Wyclef Jean, Eric Holder, Colin Powell, Harry Belafonte, Roberto Clemente, Celia Cruz—and yes, Representatives DONNA CHRISTENSEN, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, YVETTE CLARKE, FREDERICA WILSON, NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ, PEDRO PIERLUISI—and many other persons of Caribbean descent who have helped shape this country.

Caribbean American Heritage Month reminds us of the large and diverse constituencies of Caribbean Americans in our nation, and provides us with an opportunity to celebrate and share in the rich culture of the Caribbean American community through showcases of Caribbean art, festivals, concerts, and film.

In my own district of Oakland, California, individuals and organizations celebrate the rich heritage of people of Caribbean descent through musical concerts and family picnics.

In addition to presenting us with an occasion to celebrate the legacy of Caribbean Americans, this month also provides us an opportunity to strengthen our long-term partnership with nations of the Caribbean community.

From trade, energy, and immigration to disaster preparedness and the challenging issues around HIV/AIDS, we have critical challenges we must face with our Caribbean neighbors. These challenges are regional in nature, so we must confront them together and in partnership.

One issue of the region which continues to deserve special mention is last year's earthquake in Haiti. At the international donors' conference in March 2010, fifty-eight donors pledged over \$5.5 billion to support Haiti's Action Plan for Recovery and Development. According to the United Nations, as of March of this year, only about 37 percent of these funds have been disbursed. This is unacceptable. If we are to break the cycle of disaster—emergency relief—disaster in which Haiti has been trapped for many years, we must act with the same sense of urgency in reconstruction as we did immediately following the quake.

It is critical that any long-term reconstruction and development agenda is Haitian-led, that Haitian civil society and the Haitian Diaspora play a central role, and that such an agenda focuses on building the capacity of the Haitian Government to provide basic services and protect the social, civil, and political rights of its people.

Only by empowering Haitians to rebuild their own lives and their own country will we truly "rebuild differently."

I would like to end by stating that although the Caribbean faces many challenges, we understand that we must face them together. Despite the often turbulent history between the United States and Caribbean countries, our ties cannot be pinned down to geography alone, or economics alone, or even history alone. The region continues to shape us as Americans as much as we here continue to shape the Caribbean.

So I ask all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure to honor our nation's Caribbean American community and the rich gifts that they have given and continue to give this country.

Let us continue to celebrate the rich diversity of this nation of immigrants and recognize that it will forever be the great blessing and strength of our country.

RECOGNIZING GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS FOR ENLISTING TO SERVE OUR COUNTRY AS MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES

HON. JON RUNYAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 1, 2011

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of fifty-one high school seniors in Camden County for their admirable decision to enlist in the United States Armed Forces.

Of these fifty-one seniors, twenty-one have joined the Marine Corps. They are Nicholas Iezzi, Ryan Bordi, Edwin Rivera, Alexander Bonilla, Alan Rivas, Michael Colman, Brandon Piazza, Skipper Schilling, Steven Serrno, Carlos Rivera, Alexander Benitez, Khiry Rowley, John Gibson, Danielle Gregg, Matt Falcone, Tim Anstotz, Ricky Chan, Kianya Eldridge, John Hines, Allison Wright and Andrew Cipolone.

Thirteen have joined the Army. They are Christopher Gunning, Sean Barger, Eric Martinez, Joshua Ryan, Daniel Buscio, Raven Minerva, Jamir Taylor, Christopher Robinson, Dominic Massimo, Derek Hoinkis, Aaron Brown, Stephen Gracia and Indeo Ragsdale.

Six have joined the Navy. They are Taylor Cocuzza, Michael Papapietro, John Feldman, Reinaldo Pacheco, Redman Miles-Ruiz, and Shawn Daley.

Five have joined the New Jersey Army National Guard. They are Matthew Krevetski, Valerie Kibler, Desmond Taylor, Luis Barats and Scott Arons.

Four have joined the Air Force. They are Patrick Covalleski, Destern Winkler, Steven Deleon and Brian Jurek.

Two have joined the New Jersey Air National Guard. They are Shaun Feuson and Francisco Moran.

All of the fifty-one seniors will be recognized at the "Our Community Salutes of South Jersey" ceremony on the evening of June 2nd, 2011.

As June unfolds, these young men and women will celebrate graduation with their fel-

low classmates. While many of their peers will prepare to move onto college, vocational school and other endeavors, the aforementioned young men and women will enter a life of service to defend our Nation and its ideals.

I would like to offer my personal thanks to these brave young men and women. They have chosen a commendable path of service to our Nation, and with excellent education and steady encouragement, they will be able to successfully meet any challenges they face in the field, and in life.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the remarkable dedication to our country these young adults have shown by their decision to enlist in our Armed Services. We owe all of our service members—past, present and future—our deepest gratitude; and we must never forget to recognize the courage and valor of those who choose to serve our Nation and who are committed to freedom.

HONORING LINDY BOGGS ON HER 95TH BIRTHDAY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 1, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the legacy of an exceptional public servant, Lindy Boggs. The former Congresswoman and Ambassador celebrated her 95th birthday earlier this year.

As the first woman elected to Congress from Louisiana, Lindy Boggs served as a Member of the House of Representatives for 17 years. However, her political involvement and dedication to public service began long before that election. Lindy Boggs was greatly involved in the political campaigns and Congressional work of her late-husband, Hale Boggs. Following his presumed death in 1973, Lindy Boggs was elected to his seat and went on to represent the 2nd Congressional District of Louisiana with distinction. Congresswoman Boggs helped cofound the Congressional Women's Caucus and played an instrumental role in creating the Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families. Known for compassion and kindness, Lindy Boggs was a leader in the halls of Congress, and served as a strong proponent of economic and social equality for women and girls.

Following her retirement from Congress, Lindy Boggs went on to serve as Ambassador to the Vatican. Throughout her career, Lindy Boggs has remained extremely dedicated to her family. The success of her children is a testament to that dedication.

Although I did not have the honor of serving in the House with Congresswoman Boggs, her leadership and legacy have left their mark for every woman in Congress. Lindy Boggs has served this country with honor and I wish her well on the occasion of her 95th birthday.